

Filed for intro on 02/16/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SB1578
By Leatherwood

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, to establish the Tennessee Teaching Scholars Program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, is amended by adding the following new section:

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Teaching Scholars Act".

(b) The Tennessee student assistance corporation shall administer the Tennessee teaching scholars program for exemplary students who desire to enter the teaching force in Tennessee. Participation in this program is limited to college juniors, seniors, and post baccalaureate candidates admitted to teacher education programs in Tennessee and who pledge to teach in Tennessee public schools for up to four (4) years.

(c) The Tennessee student assistance corporation, in conjunction with the state board of education, is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations for the management of the program and the selection of recipients taking into consideration

such factors as academic record of the applicant, teacher shortage in subject areas and the balance of majority/minority representation in the teaching force. The Tennessee student assistance corporation shall provide the department of education with rosters of program participants completing teacher education programs and their areas of teaching endorsements. The department shall use these rosters for assisting in job placement and in considering waiver requests from local education agencies.

(d) Each program award shall be renewable up to three (3) times, contingent upon satisfactory academic performance. Persons receiving program awards who become public school teachers in Tennessee shall receive forgiveness of the program award balance based on one (1) year's teaching service for each year an award was made. Any program award balance not forgiven in the above manner shall be paid with interest by the recipient.

(e) This program shall be available for participants beginning July 1, 1996. The availability of loans shall be subject to the appropriation of funds in each year's general appropriations act.

SECTION 2. The Tennessee student assistance corporation shall discontinue the loan program for math and science teachers established by Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-210, and the loan program for teachers in disadvantaged areas established by Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-211, effective July 1, 1996. This section shall not affect the obligations or benefits, both present and future, of those students currently participating in these programs. Participants in either program may comply with the pay off provisions of these programs by teaching in an area designated by either program.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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